



2 May 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

The Board of The Anglican Schools Corporation today announced the staged closure of Trades Norwest Anglican Senior College.

Chairman, Philip Bell OAM, made the announcement to teachers, staff, parents and students, noting the decision had been reached with a very heavy heart.

“The College opened in 2008 to serve students seeking an alternative to mainstream schooling through quality training and an HSC qualification. Over the past decade the individualised model has helped secure the future of hundreds of students and we are very proud of that achievement,” said Mr Bell.

“However, the model is a very expensive one. Despite closing the College in 2013 and re-opening the following year with a different educational model, financial concerns continued. A regular review in 2017 concluded that only deep operational change could potentially save the College.”

Mr Bell said The Anglican Schools Corporation Board had spent the last year investigating potential synergies and cost savings associated with merging the College with another school in the Corporation. Unfortunately, this was not a proven viable option because of insufficient synergies.

“We are faced with the need to invest in re-registration for TechWest, the need for significant investment in large building maintenance projects on our aging buildings, and the ongoing decline in student numbers,” said Mr Bell.

“There is now no other credible option to keep the College open. This is not a decision that has been made lightly or quickly – we have undertaken a dedicated and thorough process focused on trying to identify a solution.”

Mr Bell said the Corporation would be staging the closure to minimise disruption to students:

- Our Year 10 school students will have the option to transfer to another school and receive a Record of School Achievement or finish the year at the College and receive a Statement of Attainment only. If the student has an option for a full-time apprenticeship or traineeship then the College will support this with a Certificate of Exemption.
- Year 11 school students will also have the option to transfer to another school or to complete their Year 12 HSC with us in 2020.
- The current Year 12 will graduate without any changes.

- For the Trades students in Stages 1 and 2, we will look to help transition them to another RTO at some point throughout this year or they will finish their studies with us at the end of 2019. We do not anticipate any interruption to apprenticeships or employment as a result of the transition to other providers.
- Stage 3 and 4 students will be offered the capstone module in 2019 and, if required and permitted by the authorities, again in March 2020 before our accreditation expires.

Our dedicated staff have been advised of the staged closure, and where possible they will be assisted with finding equivalent employment elsewhere in The Anglican Schools Corporation.

“This is the end of an era and we can assure you that no stone was left unturned to try to save the College. Whilst we all share the sadness associated with closure, we should not lose sight of the success that we have been able to provide students over the past decade,” said Mr Bell.

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